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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 040679/1047

D29

Applicant: Shojiro MIYAKE et al.
Title: SLIDABLY MOVABLE MEMBER AND METHOD OF PRODUCING SAME
Appl. No.: 09/545,181
Filing Date: 04/07/2000
Examiner: A. Turner
Art Unit: 1773

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED
AUG 20 2001
TC 1700

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a prima facie prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits. Accordingly, no fee is due.

**CONCISE EXPLANATION OF
RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT**

The document listed on the attached PTO Form-1449 was cited in a German Office Action issued during prosecution of the corresponding German application. The document generally relates to surface protection procedures for pistons of combustion engines. The German Office Action states that it is known from the document to deposit a soft carbon-based layer of graphite on slidable surfaces of pistons being used in contact with lubricants (cf. page 247). This statement of relevance is based on a translation of the German Office Action and should not be construed as an admission of, or agreement with, the opinions expressed in the German Office Action.

An English translation of the listed document is not readily available; however, the absence of a translation or an English-language counterpart document does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider any submitted document (37 C.F.R. §1.98 and M.P.E.P. §609).

Applicants respectfully request that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and formally be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,

August 16, 2001
Date

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